



MOTTER AVENUE/OPOSSUMTOWN PIKE BRIDGE OVER US 15 PROJECT FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** In partnership with the City of Frederick, SHA is replacing the Motter Avenue bridge over US 15 (Catoctin Mountain Highway) in Frederick and widening and improving Motter Avenue/Opossumtown Pike from US 15 to Thomas Johnson Drive.
- WHY:** This project will address several issues including:
- Improving the flow of traffic at the interchange,
 - Addressing deterioration of the concrete bridge deck, and
 - Making the bridge safer for pedestrians and bicyclists with the addition of 4-foot-wide shoulders and 5-foot-wide sidewalks.
- COST:** Approximately \$15.2 million (\$12 million State/Federal, \$2.7 million City, \$0.5 million County)
- PROJECT INCLUDES:** As part of this project, SHA will:
- Replace the Motter Avenue bridge over US 15.
 - Widen Motter Avenue/Opossumtown Pike from four lanes to six lanes from US 15 to Thomas Johnson Drive.
 - Upgrade sidewalks and traffic signals for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance throughout the project area. The sidewalk improvements will extend from Thomas Johnson Drive to the entrance of Governor Thomas Johnson High School.
 - Add an additional lane on Thomas Johnson Drive approaching the Opossumtown Pike intersection from each direction and add/extend concrete median barriers on Thomas Johnson Drive approaching the intersection.
 - Lengthen the deceleration lanes on US 15 at the Motter Avenue exit by about 400 feet and modify the ramp from northbound US 15 to Motter Avenue for improved traffic flow.
 - Relocate a City of Frederick water line from the existing bridge to the new bridge.
 - Construct storm water management facilities at the US 15/Motter Avenue interchange.
 - Make additional changes to accommodate the widened road, such as relocating lighting fixtures and constructing retaining walls.

TIMELINE: Preliminary work at the site began spring 2012 with stormwater management work and utility relocation work by Verizon. Bridge work is expected to begin between fall 2012 and summer 2013, depending on when Verizon's work is completed. Completion of the entire project is expected in fall 2014, weather permitting.

Bridge work will occur in four stages:

- 1) A temporary 10-foot-wide pedestrian bridge will be installed.
- 2) Traffic lanes will be shifted to the south, the north sidewalk will be demolished and the north half of the new bridge will be constructed. (Approximately 10 months.) Pedestrians will be directed onto the temporary pedestrian bridge.
- 3) Traffic will be shifted to the new side of the bridge while the south side of the bridge is demolished and replaced. (Approximately 10 months.)
- 4) Final tie-ins will be completed.

SHA will make every effort to complete this project as quickly as possible while minimizing impacts to local residents, pedestrians and motorists.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS: The bridge will be open to traffic throughout the project, and all four through lanes will be maintained during peak travel times. The travel lanes on Motter Avenue/Opossumtown Pike will be shifted to the left or right depending on the phase of construction, and temporary lane closures can be expected during off-peak hours, between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Toward the end of the project, the ramp from northbound US 15 to northbound Motter Avenue will be closed temporarily during off-peak hours and a detour will be posted. The closure will last one to two nights.

To ensure the safety of workers and drivers, automated speed enforcement will be in place on US 15.

PEDESTRIAN IMPACTS: To ensure continued safe access for the many pedestrians who use this route, including students at nearby Governor Thomas Johnson High School and Frederick Community College, SHA will construct a temporary pedestrian bridge.

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WEBSITE: For updates throughout this project, visit <http://tinyurl.com/motterbridge>.